

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title as follows:

METHOD AND AGENT FOR DETERMINING AN A DEAMINASE
ENZYMATIC ACTIVITY ~~SUCH AS DEAMINASE~~

Please add the attached Abstract.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Patent US-A-4,603,103-108 is also known, which discloses D,L-beta-(p-nitrophenyl)alanine as a substrate for detecting phenylalanine deaminase. The reading of the reaction is carried out either at 480 nm, without adding a revelator, for phenylalanine deaminase, or by assaying ammonia for leucine deaminase.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

"Cyclic amino acid radical R" ~~{sic}~~ is intended to mean cyclic or heterocyclic radicals R such as indole, phenyl, hydroxyphenyl and imidazole, which can undergo a reaction of substitution with the group X. These amino acids ~~comprising {sic}~~ include amino acids which are natural or synthetic, or modified, in particular by substitution.

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph ending on page 6, line 18:

In addition, as used herein, the term "substituent" does not include hydrogen.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A fourth subject according to the invention is the method for preparing compounds and detection agents according to the invention of general formula (I) and as respectively defined above, comprising the following steps:

(a) - formylation of the residue R,

(b) - addition of a salt of X onto the residue R formylated according to (a),

(c) - deformylation ~~[acuna]~~of the residue R substituted according to (b).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The L-tyrosine (7.2 g; 40 mmol) was resuspended in water (100 ml) and aqueous potassium hydroxide (3.36 g; 60 mmol) was added. Copper hydroxide prepared above was added to this hot solution. The resulting dark blue solution of the copper complex was carefully acidified down to pH 8. The purple precipitate which progressively formed was isolated by filtration, washed with water and methanol, and air-dried to give 7.4 g of complex.

This complex was resuspended in methanol (80 ml), and to ~~[sic]~~a solution of sodium carbonate (3.7 g; 35 mmol) was added with stirring. The copper complex, which was only dissolved, required the use of methanol to clarify it. A solution of 4-toluene-sulfonyl chloride (6.55 g; 35 mmol) in methanol (60 ml) was gradually added to the stirred filtered solution. The pH was maintained between 9 and 11 by the periodic addition of aqueous sodium carbonate. After 2 hours, the suspension was filtered, and the residue was washed with methanol. The washing and filtration steps were combined, and the suspension was subjected to evaporation at 45°C to remove the methanol.